

# A LETTER to a Li---ry-man, on the present ELECTION for the City of L----don.

SIR,

I Have yours of the ----- instant in due Course, and thank you for communicating to me the Names of your Candidates.

As the Gentlemen you mention are none of them Strangers to you, so your best Way of knowing which of 'em are fittest to represent you in this present Parliament, is, that you judge of them by their Actions in preceeding Parliaments, and not by the Character they shall give you of themselves.

Those who are possess'd of so great a Share of the Legislative Power of the Kingdom, (as is the *House of Commons*) ought to be Men of the greatest Temper, Integrity and known Abilities: Such as will freely give their Consent to the raising such Supplys as are necessary for carrying on the War against *France*; and upon such Funds, that the several Sums given may answer the Purposes they are intended for, and the Credit of the Nation supported. Such as will not only secure you the present Enjoyment of your Franchises and Liberties, but will also do every thing that may for the future be most useful and advantageous to you, and for conveying them to your Posterity. Such as are for reducing the *French* King to Terms of Reason, and for securing the Peace and Tranquility of their Country. Such as have no other Ends in offering themselves to serve you than is consistent with the Safety of the *QUEEN*, and the Protestant Succession; and will prevent your Liberties from being insulted at the Pleasure of a haughty and revengeful Party, who arrogate

to themselves the Right of exercising Justice over you, when any of you deny them your Votes; contrary to your Constitution and Priviledges which for many Years have successively been granted to you. Such as are sensibly affected with the Dangers that threaten you by the growing Power of *France*, and with the Artifices made use of by your Enemies to divide you amongst yourselves, and to draw you into such Disputes and Debates as may occasion your Ruin.

Have you not seen the injurious Treatment which many of your Fellow-Electors have met with in several Parts of the Kingdom, when they have offer'd to give in their Votes for such Gentlemen as have serv'd you faithfully, and Scoundrels protected for refusing them the Liberty of Voting, and themselves chap'd into a Goal for endeavouring to assert their Priviledges?

Have you not seen the honest Freeholders often Mob'd, that they might not have an Opportunity of giving in their Votes, and Papists and Nonjurors admitted to Poll without the Oath being tendered to 'em, as the Law directs?

Can you expect such Persons as Papists, Nonjurors and Jacobites, will ever give a Vote for such Men as they think are sincerely affected to the Establish'd Succession? Or will they oppose the Pretender's coming here?

Do you think they will help you to chuse such a Parliament as is for pulling down the Exorbitant Power of *France*, and for settling the Crown of *Spain* upon King *Charles III*?

Will

will they assist you against the Attempts of France, shou'd you ever be drawn into the like Snare (as in the last Reign) of leaving your selves defenceless? Or do they not openly declare themselves your Enemies, in disowning Her Majesty's Right to the Crown, and by refusing to comply with your Laws for the Defence of the Church and Kingdom?

Have not many of 'em reduc'd themselves to a Condition little better than Beggary, by the large Rewards they have given to private Persons, in order to bring them into the Interest of restoring the Pretender? Or do we find any part of the People in this Kingdom more busy in preferring particular Men to your Choice, than are the disaffected Party?

Do they not take all Opportunitys to thwart you, when ever your Affairs abroad happen otherwise than you expected, and keep their private Places to meet in, where they rejoice at the Success of your Enemies?

Have they not wheedled many well-meaning Men amongst you into their Party, by shewing them Sham-papers and Manuscripts of their own dictating; Under Pretence that they were done by the Whigs, in order to invade your Liberties? And have they not boasted themselves of the Effects their Insinuations have wrought upon you, when they brought you to disband your Army, at a Time when you had the greatest Reason to continue it? Or did they supply the late King with Money or Troops, either to defend himself or you, till France had in a manner over-aw'd all Europe, and obliged the States of Holland to own the Duke of Anjou for King of Spain? Did they not immediately after the Queen's Accession to the Throne endeavour to bring in Persecution, that the Nation might be diverted from making the necessary Preparations for attacking France, to discourage the Protestant Prin-

ces in the Confederacy, and obstruct your advancing the Money upon the Publick Funds? And don't you remember the Glut of French Pistols, which flow'd amongst us when these Mischiefs were hatching? And although some (through an over and unwary Zeal for the Interest of their Cause) have reduc'd themselves in a manner to Necessity, yet there are others you know who from nothing have so unaccountably rais'd their Fortunes, as to think themselves of equal Ability with the best of your Commoners, and boast of spending a Thousand Pound at an *Election*: How they came by it I will not be your Judge. But sure I am that no Man ever got a Groat honestly, by serving in Parliament.

How have they inveigl'd others to make Speeches for 'em, in order to create a Jealousie and Uneasiness amongst the common and unthinking part of the People, and expos'd 'em when they had done, for the Incoherence and Insignificancy of it?

How industrious have we found 'em to improve every little Miscalculation we have met with in our Affairs; yet at the same Time wish all of them in Confusion? And how ready to aggravate them to such as they find more apt to pull the Mote out of their Brother's Eye, than the Beam that is in their own?

Are not the same Men in Being, (and now some of them offering themselves to serve you) to whose unhappy Management this War owes its Rise? And how scandalously and reproachfully did they treat the honest Gentlemen (who foresaw the Fatal Consequence that would attend the uniting *Spain* with *France*) for insisting upon the raising a sufficient Force to secure us? Are they not the same Men, who boasted themselves of the Hank they had upon the Duke of *Marlbro'* for carrying the *English* Army into *Germany*? And did not their Party swagger about, how they were resolv'd to pursue it to the utmost?

Are

Are they not the same Men who contrived that witty Stratagem, to prevent the Duke of Marlbro's giving their Old Friend such another Blow he had just given him at Bleinheim, by Tacking the Money-Bill to the Occasional-Bill, because they knew the Lords would not pass it; and if it past their own House, that the Queen could have no Money to carry on the War? Are they not the same Men who reproach others for their Dil-regard to Crown'd Heads, and tell us, we always ought to be new shod with a Saddle upon our Back? And does any one know of a King or Queen that ever they were quiet with?

Did they not in King *Charles II.* Reign court the Duke of *York*? Did they not in King *James's* Reign court the Prince of *Orange*? Did they not in King *William's* Reign court the *P----ss*? And have they not since Her Majesty's Reign courted the *P----ss So----a*; ay, and the Pretender too? And has not the French King vaunted in most Courts of Europe, of the Hopes he had of the Pretender's Expedition, from the Assurances given him of his Friends in this Kingdom?

Did not you observe when the Pretender was preparing for this Expedition, a mighty Hurly Burly about our Miscarriages in *Spain*, and a Necessity urg'd for drawing a great Part of your English Forces out of *Flanders*, to be Exported into *Catalonia*?

Don't you believe the Consequence of putting such a Project in Execution, would very much have contributed to the Success of the Pretender, by rendering you so much the less able to defend yourselves at home, and have created a very Just Uneasiness amongst the Confederates; especially the States of *Holland*?

Did you not observe a cheerful Countenance in some People, when the News came that the French Fleet was sail'd so many Hours before ours? And the same Men as much confounded when they

heard that our Fleet had met with the French at the Mouth of the Frith? Has not all the Secrets of your Councils, and the going out of your Fleets for some Time been betray'd to your Enemies? Or has any thing been left unattempted by the disaffected Party here, to give the French King an Opportunity of completing your Ruin?

Is it not plain that their Pique against the Duke of *Marlborough* is only because they find him resolute in pursuing the Interest of the Queen and Country, and omits no Opportunity to let Her Enemies know it? And is it not their Cavils against the present Ministry, because they find them steady and unbias'd in the like Resolutions? Have they not incens'd the People against the Administration of the Government, and publish'd Books and Pamphlets reflecting upon Her Majesty, for endeavouring to keep Peace in Her Kingdom, and for governing her People with Lenity, and supporting them in their Ancient Rights and Priviledges; a Felicity truly worthy our greatest Acknowledgment of Duty and Gratitude?

How have they reproach'd the Bish--ops, and all the sober Part of the Clergy, for opposing their pernicious and arbitrary Designs?

Have they not branded them with the Character of Fanaticks, and Betrayers of the Church, and endeavour'd to set up an Independant Power in the lower House of C----n in Opposition to the Authority of the Bish--ops?

Do they not now as warmly as ever possess you with the Notion that the Church is in Danger, in Order to perswade you to the Choice of such a Parliament, whose Principles may be agreeable with their own? As in King *William's* Reign, when his Majesty told 'em, 'That it lay 'incumbent upon them to secure that Peace 'which God had given us. They open'd the next Session with calling the Ministry to an Account for advising the King to make that Speech, as if the Safety of the Nation

Nation was so foreign to what they came there for.

Are there not several Acts of Parliament past, in Order to secure the Church from Danger? or do you think the Dissenters so bewitch'd as to attempt it.

Can the repealing any such Act as is for securing the Church, pass both Houses in Hugger-mugger? And are not you oblig'd to the *Whigs* for the printing of your Votes, that no Law might be made or repealed without your Knowledge? Which Priviledge the *Tories* have often attempted to hinder you of, that their Designs might be carried on with the greater Secrecy? Is it an Instance to you that the Church is in Danger, because insinuated to you by a Hunger-starv'd Crew of *Jacobites*, *Papists* and *Nonjurors*? Or, can you think they care what becomes of you, or the Church either, if they can but get an Opportunity of plundering your Substance? Is it an Argument that the Church is in Danger because a prejudic'd nothing-thinking Par--n tells you so, who takes a Disgust that he is not made as great as the greatest, tho' perhaps he has forc'd more from the Church by his *Rhodomantado*, than a sober Gentleman shall gain Profelites with Ten Times the Pains.

Is it an Argument that the Church is in Danger, because you often see some of 'em at the Head of a Tribe of *Gad* marching to an Election, stirring up Sedition amongst the ignorant People, and abusing their Superiors as well as the Station they are call'd to?

Or is not the Church and Kingdom too truly in Danger, when you see such Men joyn their Interest with your profess'd Enemies? Have you not a sufficient Reason to convince you, that their Design was to establish the Pretender, How dear soever they paid for it? And

has not our Saviour set us a Rule whereby we are to distinguish the Sheep from the Wolves, *Mat. 17. 15*?

You will please Sir, to accept of these Hints; which if they may be of Service to you, I shall think my self abundantly rewarded for my Pains in communicating them to you. I remember you told me some Time ago, That a certain Person (you know who I mean) proposed, *Perkin* should be brought over and made a Protestant. I believe you are so wise as to think him best where he is; and if you desire he shall be kept there, and not forc'd upon you with a Gang of ravenous Wolves at his Heels, to plunder you and make you their Slaves; I say, if you desire to secure your selves from a *Popish* and *French* Slavery, it must be by chusing a *Whig* Parliament; if not, you will soon see Cause to repent you of your Folly, and when 'tis too late cry, *Who would have thought it?*

How fatal will it prove to your Memories when your Posterity shall be told of the Blessings of Liberty you enjoy (if by your Unwariness and Want of Charity to one another) you give your Enemies the Opportunity to bring them into Bondage, and that Religion you are now so warmly contending about, sacrific'd to your private Animosities, and ill ground-ed Opinions. No Time can wear off the Reproach of such Stains; especially under the Government of so good a Queen, who has given you so many Proofs of Her Zeal for the Church, who has so vigorously prosecuted your Defence against your Enemies, and whose Actions have been so just and equitable; notwithstanding that neither Interest, the Good of your Country, nor Regard to your Posterity, has been sufficient to Bribe some of Her Subj.cts to their Duty.

